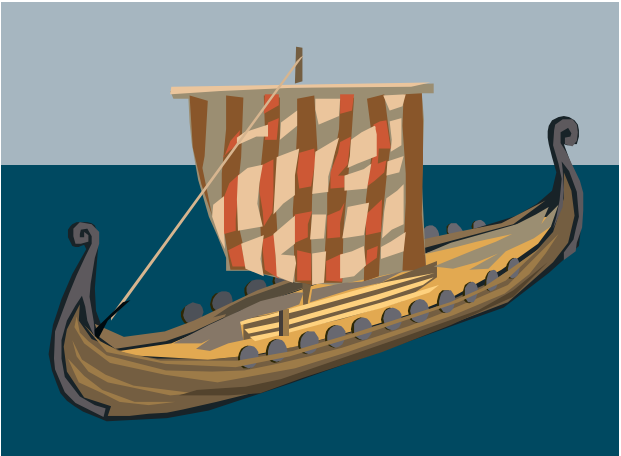


# Great Historical Fiction Books at the Pleasanton Public Library: Ancient History through Early 1600's

Compiled by the Pleasanton Library Children's Staff



Books are shelved in *Children's Fiction* by author's last name and/or *Children's Paperbacks* by first letter of author's last name (unless otherwise noted).

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## Pre-History and Ancient History

### How the Amazon Queen Fought the Prince of Egypt

by Tamara Bower  
Shelved in picture books — JPB “B”  
Grades 2-4 (36 p)

Serpot, ruler of a land where women live free, without men, leads her Amazon warriors in battle against Prince Pidikhons of Egypt, who has come to see for himself if women can equal men, even in battle. It includes notes about Assyrian and Egyptian culture and hieroglyphics.



**The Sand-Reckoner** by Gillian Bradshaw  
Grades 7-10 (351 p)

Set in 146 B.C. Greece, the extraordinary life of Archimedes, the great mathematician and engineer, is retold.

**Goddess of Yesterday** by Caroline Cooney  
Grades 7-9 (263 p)

Taken from her home on an Aegean island as a six-year-old girl, Anaxndra calls on the protection of her goddess while she poses as two different princesses over the next six years, before ending up as a servant in the company of Helen and Paris as they make their way to Troy.



**Boy of the Painted Cave** by Justin Denzel



Grades 4-8 (158 p) *Sequel: Return to the Painted Cave*  
Forbidden to make images, fourteen-year-old Tao, the boy with the bad foot, yearns to be a cave painter, recording the figures of the mammals, rhinos, bison, and other animals of his prehistoric times.

**A Bone from a Dry Sea** by Peter Dickinson  
Grades 7-10 (199 p)

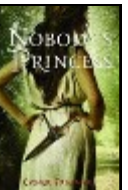
In the first of two parallel stories, an intelligent female member of a prehistoric tribe becomes instrumental in advancing the lot of her people. The second is the modern day tale of the daughter of a paleontologist who is visiting him on a dig in Africa when important fossil remains are discovered.

**Shadow Spinner** by Susan Fletcher  
Grades 7-9 (219 p) *Audiobook available*

When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for the Shahrazad the stories which will save the queen's life.



**Nobody's Princess** by Esther Friesner



Grades 6-9 (305 p) *Sequel: Nobody's Prize*  
Determined to fend for herself in a world where only men have real freedom, headstrong Helen, who will be called queen of Sparta and Helen of Troy one day, learns to fight, hunt, and ride horses while disguised as a boy, and goes on an adventure throughout the Mediterranean world.

**Cleopatra VII, Daughter of the Nile** by Kristiana Gregory  
Grades 5-8 (221 p) *Royal Diaries series*

While her father is hiding after attempts on his life, twelve-year-old Cleopatra records in her diary how she fears for her own safety and hopes to survive to become Queen of Egypt some day.

**Orphan of the Sun** by Gill Harvey



Grades 6-9 (310 p)  
Meryt-Re, a thirteen-year-old orphan living in Set-Maat, Egypt, during the building of the pharaohs' tombs, tries to come to terms with her ability to see the truth in dreams while also attempting to determine who is trying to overthrow the village foreman.

**Wolf-Woman** by Sherryl Jordan  
Grades 6-9 (162 p)

When she is three-years-old, Tanith is taken from a den of wolves and lives for many years as the daughter of the chief of a warlike clan, until circumstances force her to choose between wolves and men.

**The Last Girls of Pompeii** by Kathryn Lasky  
Grades 4-6 (184 p)

Twelve-year-old Julia knows that her physical deformity will keep her from a normal life, but counts on the continuing friendship of her life-long slave, Mitka, until they learn that both of their futures in first-century Pompeii are about to change for the worse.



**Wolf Brother** by Michelle Paver

Grades 6-9 (295 p) *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness trilogy*



6,000 years in the past, twelve-year-old Tarak and his guide, a wolf cub, set out on a dangerous journey to fulfill an oath the boy made to his dying father—to travel to the Mountain of the World Spirit seeking a way to destroy a demon-possessed bear that threatens all the clans.

**The Bronze Bow** by Elizabeth G. Speare  
Grades 5-8 (256 p)

A young boy seeks revenge against the Romans for killing his parents but is turned away from vengeance by Jesus.

**Maroo of the Winter Caves** by Anne Turnbull  
Grades 6-9 (136 p)

Maroo, a girl of the late Ice Age, must take charge after her father is killed, and lead her little brother, mother, and aged grandmother to the safety of the winter camp before blizzards strike.

## Middle Ages and Renaissance

**Crispin, the Cross of Lead** by Avi



Grades 5-8 (262 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Sequel: Crispin at the Edge of the World*  
Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphan peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

**Midnight Magic** by Avi  
Grades 5-8 (249 p)

In Italy in 1491, Mangus the magician and his apprentice are summoned to the castle of Duke Claudio to determine if his daughter is indeed being haunted by a ghost.



**Primavera** by Mary Jane Beaufrand

Grades 5-8 (260 p)  
Growing up in Renaissance Italy, Flora sees her family's fortunes ebb, but encounters with the artist Botticelli and the guidance of her nurse teach her to look past the material world to the beauty already in her life.



**The Shakespeare Stealer** by Gary Blackwood  
Grades 5-8 (216 p) *Audiobook available*



*Sequel: Shakespeare's Scribe*

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of “Hamlet.” Instead he discovers the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

**Forbidden Forest: The Story of Little John and Robin Hood** by Michael Cadnum

Grades 8-10 (218 p)  
This tale profiles Little John, from his quiet life before joining Robin Hood through his adventures protecting a beautiful lady when she is wrongfully accused of murdering her husband.

**King of Shadows** by Susan Cooper  
Grades 5-7 (186 p)

While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the direction of Shakespeare himself.

## Popular Historical Fiction Series

**The Roman Mysteries** by Caroline Lawrence

**The Royal Diaries** by Carolyn Meyer

**The Young Royals** by various authors

Pleasanton Public Library

Children's Services

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12/2008



**Catherine, Called Birdy** by Karen Cushman

Grades 7-10 (169 p) *Audiobook available*

The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

**Matilda Bone** by Karen Cushman

Grades 6-9 (167p)

Fourteen-year-old Matilda, an apprentice bonesetter and practitioner of medicine in a village in medieval England, tries to reconcile the various aspects of her life, both spiritual and practical.



**The Midwife’s Apprentice** by Karen Cushman

Grades 6-9 (122 p) *Newbery Medal winner*

In medieval England, a nameless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

**The Door in the Wall** by Marguerite de Angeli

Grades 5-7 (121 p) *Audiobook available*

*Newbery Medal winner*

A crippled boy in fourteenth-century England proves his courage and earns recognition from the King.

**The Blood Stone** by Jamila Gavin



Grades 7-10 (340 p)

In the early seventeenth century, young Venetian Filippo Veroneo travels from Venice to Afghanistan to rescue his imprisoned father, Geronimo, and stops in India to raise the ransom by selling his father’s beautiful diamond to the ruler Shah Jehan, who later uses the stone as the model for the Taj Mahal.

**Eleanor, Crown Jewel of Aquitaine** by Kristina Gregory

Grades 4-7 (187 p) *Royal Diaries series*

The diary of Eleanor, first daughter of the Duke of Aquitaine, from 1136 until 1137, when at age fifteen she becomes queen of France. Includes historical notes on her later life.

**Blood Red Horse** by K. M. Grant

Grades 6-9 (277 p) *Audiobook available*

*DeGranville trilogy*

A special horse named Hosanna changes the lives of two English brothers and those around them as they fight with King Richard I against Saladin’s armies during the Third Crusades.



**Leonardo’s Shadow: Or My Astonishing Life as**

**Leonardo da Vinci’s Servant** by Christopher Grey



Grades 7-10 (394 p)

Fifteen-year-old Giacomo — servant to Leonardo da Vinci — helps his procrastinating master finish painting “The Last Supper” while also trying to find clues to his parentage and pursue his own career as an artist in late fifteenth-century Milan.

**The Falconer’s Knot** by Mary Hoffman

Grades 7-9 (170 p)

Silvano and Chiara, teens sent to live in a friary and a nunnery in Renaissance Italy, are drawn to one another and dream of a future together. When murders are committed in the friary, they must discover who is behind the crimes before they can realize their love.



**Stravaganza: City of Masks** by Mary Hoffman

Grades 5-8 (p 344) *Stravaganza series*

While sick in bed with cancer, Lucien begins making journeys to a place in a parallel world that resembles Venice, Italy, and he becomes caught up in the political intrigues surrounding the Duchessa who rules the city.

**The Boy and the Samurai** by Erik Haugaard

Grades 6-9 (221 p)

Having grown up as an orphan of the streets while sixteenth-century Japan is being ravaged by civil war, Saru seeks to help a samurai rescue his wife from imprisonment by a warlord so they can all flee to a more peaceful life.



**Fortune’s Fool** by Kathleen Karr

Grades 6-9 (256 p)

In medieval Germany, fifteen-year-old Conrad, a court jester, and his beloved Christa, a servant girl, escape from a cruel master and journey through the countryside on a quest to find a kind lord who will give them sanctuary.



**A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver**

by E.L.Konigsburg

Grades 6-9 (201 p)

While waiting in heaven for divine judgment to be passed on her second husband, Eleanor of Aquitaine and three people who knew her well recall the events of her life.

**The Queen’s Progress** by Celeste Mannis

Shelved in picture books JPB “M”

Grades 1-4

Letters of the alphabet and beautiful illustrations are used to provide an account of Queen Elizabeth’s annual holiday, known as a “royal progress.”

**Guinevere’s Gift** by Nancy McKenzie

Grades 6-9 (327 p) *The Chrysalis Queen Quartet*

When the orphaned Guinevere is twelve years old, living with Queen Alyse and King Pellinore of Gwynedd, she fearlessly helps rescue her cousin from kidnappers. At the same time the queen despairs of Guinevere’s rebellious nature.

**Duchessina, a Novel of Catherine de Medici**

by Carolyn Meyer



Grades 7-10 (261 p) *Young Royals series*

While her tyrannical family is out of favor in Italy, young Catherine de Medici is raised in convents, then in 1533, when she is fourteen, her uncle, Pope Clement VII, arranges for her marriage to Prince Henri of France, who is destined to become King.

**Mary, Bloody Mary** by Carolyn Meyer

Grades 6-9 (227 p) *Young Royals series*

Mary Tudor, who would reign briefly as Queen of England during the mid sixteenth century, tells the story of her troubled childhood as daughter to King Henry VIII.

**The Roman Conspiracy** by Jack Mitchell

Grades 6-9 (164 p)

With the Roman Empire falling apart, young Aulus travels to the great city of Rome to seek help from his family’s Protector and finds himself in a lot of trouble.

**The Squire’s Tale** by Gerald Morris

Grades 5-9 (212 p) *The Squire’s Tales series*

Headstrong sixteen-year-old Lady Luneta and her distant cousin, Sir Gawain, travel to Camelot and beyond finding more adventure than they hoped for until, with the help of a fool, Luneta discovers what she really wants from life.



**Daughter of Venice** by Donna Jo Napoli

Grades 6-9 (274 p)

Frustrated with the restrictions her gender imposes on her life, fourteen-year-old Donata, disguised as a boy, sneaks out of her noble family’s house to roam the streets of late sixteenth-century Venice and then must confront the repercussions of her actions.

**The Legend of Hong Kil Dong: The Robin Hood of**

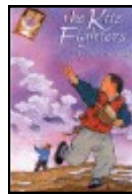
**Korea** by Anne Sibley O’Brien

Shelved in Children’s Graphic Novels “O”

Grades 3-6

This graphic novel is based on the classic tale from early 17th century Korea. Hong Kil Dong, the son of a powerful minster, sets off on a quest to discover his destiny.

**The Kite Fighters** by Linda Sue Park



Grades 4-7 (136 p) *Audiobook available*

In Korea in 1473, eleven-year-old Young-sup overcomes his rivalry with his older brother Kee-sup, who as the first-born son receives special treatment from their father, and combines his kite-flying skill with Kee-sup’s kite-making skill in an attempt to win the New Year kite-fighting competition.

**A Single Shard** by Linda Sue Park

Grades 5-8 (152 p) *Audiobook available*

*Newbery Medal winner*

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters’ village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

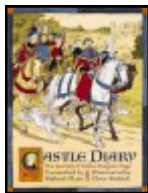


**The Sign of the Chrysanthemum** by Katherine Paterson

Grades 6-9 (132 p)

A teenager comes to know himself through contacts with social ills and political unrest while searching for his father in Japan’s capital, centuries ago.

**Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess, Page**



transcribed by Richard Platt

Grades 4-7 (64 p)

As a page in his uncle’s castle in thirteenth-century England, eleven-year-old Tobias records in his journal his experiences learning how to hunt, play games of skill, and behave in noble society. Includes detailed illustrations, notes on noblemen, castles, and feudalism.

**The Redheaded Princess: A Novel**

by Ann Rinaldi

Grades 6-9 (214 p)

In 1542, nine-year-old Lady Elizabeth lives on an estate near London, striving to get back into the good graces of her father, King Henry VIII,. As the years pass she faces his death and those of other close relatives until she finds herself next in line to ascend the throne of England in 1558.



**The Travels of Benjamin of Tudela: Through Three Continents in the Twelfth Century** by Uri Shulevitz

Shelved in Children’s Moving Up

Grades 4-7

A fictionalized account of the travels of Benjamin, a Jewish man from Tudela, Spain, who, in 1159, set out on a fourteen-year-long journey that took him to Italy, Greece, Palestine, Persia, China, Egypt, and Sicily.



**The Shining Company** by Rosemary Sutcliff

Grades 7-10 (295 p)

In 600 A.D. in northern Britain, Prosper becomes a shield bearer with the Companions, an army made up of three hundred younger sons of minor kings and trained to act as one fighting brotherhood against the invading Saxons.

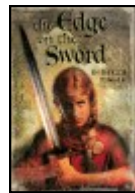
**The Secret of the Rose** by Sarah Thomson

Grades 6-9 (296 p)

When her father is imprisoned in 1592 England for being Catholic, fourteen-year-old Rosalind disguises herself as a boy and finds an ultimately dangerous job as servant to playwright Christopher Marlowe.



**The Edge on the Sword** by Rebecca Tingle



Grades 5-8 (277 p)

In ninth-century Britain, fifteen-year-old Aethelflaed, daughter of King Alfred of West Saxony, finds she must assume new responsibilities much sooner than expected when she is betrothed to Ethelred of Mercia in order to strengthen a strategic alliance against the Danes.

**I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade**

by Diane L. Wilson

Grades 7-9 (232 p)

Oyuna tells her granddaughter the story of how love for her horse enabled her to win a race and bring good luck to her family living in Mongolia in 1285.



**Girl in a Cage** by Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris



Grades 6-10 (234 p) *Stewart Quartet*

As English armies invade Scotland in 1306, eleven-year-old Princess Marjorie, daughter of the newly crowned Scottish king, Robert the Bruce, is captured by England’s King Edward Longshanks and held in a cage on public display.

**Sword of the Rightful King: A Novel of King Arthur**

by Jane Yolen

Grades 6-8 (349 p) *Audiobook available*

Merlinus the magician devises a way for King Arthur to prove himself the rightful king of England, pulling a sword from a stone, but trouble arises when someone else removes the sword first.

**Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!: Voices from a**

**Medieval Village** by Laura Amy Schlitz

Shelved in non-fiction J812.6 Schlitz

Grades 4-7 (85 p) *Newbery Medal winner*

A collection of short one-person plays featuring characters, between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor.

